

Message Text

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16

ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-06 SAM-01 SR-02 ORM-01 VO-03

SCA-01 EA-06 IO-10 SSO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 INSE-00 EB-07 AF-06 /111 W

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P 101022Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2742

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2624

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMG, PO

SUBJ: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 097854

1. POLCOUNS MADE DEMARCHE WITH HEAD OF FONOFF'S EUROPE AND AMERICAS SECTION CONCERNING REFTEL REQUEST. FONOFF IS RAISING MATTER WITH MINISTRY OF INTERTERRITORIAL COOPERATION, WHICH HAS JURISDICTION OVER ALL MATTERS CONCERNING REFUGEES.

2. UNOFFICIAL REACTION OF FONOFF IS AS FOLLOWS:

(A) PORTUGAL IS NOW IN THE MIDST OF WORSENING ECONOMIC SITUATION WHICH THE GOP FEARS COULD GROW TO CRISIS PROPORTIONS.

(B) A GOOD MANY REFUGEES HAVE ALREADY BEEN ABSORBED FROM PORTUGAL'S FORMER COLONIES, MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA. MORE ARE EXPECTED WITH THE COMING OF INDEPENDENCE IN MOZAMBIQUE THIS JUNE AND THE CONTINUING VIOLENCE IN ANGOLA. GOP DOES NOT KNOW HOW IT WILL BE ABLE TO ABSORB PORTUGUESE REFUGEES FROM THE COLONIES, ESPECIALLY WHEN TRADITIONAL EMIGRATION TO EUROPE HAS VIRTUALLY CEASED.

(C) SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH GOP VIEWS ECONOMIC PROBLEM IS SHOWN
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BY THE FACT THAT PORTUGAL IS REFUSING ASYLUM TO REFUGEES FROM

CHILE AND ARGENTINA DESPITE FACT THAT THESE REFUGEES SHARE
THE LEFTIST OUTLOOK OF THE CURRENT PORTUGUESE REGIME.

2. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF THE REACTION OF THE EUROPE AND AMERICAS
HEAD, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT GOP WILL RESPOND FAVORABLY TO
OUR REQUEST. WHEN POLCOUNS POINTED OUT THAT TAKING EVEN 100
REFUGEES WOULD BE USEFUL, HIS REPLY WAS THAT IF GOP FOR
ECONOMIC REASONS UNWILLING TO ACCEPT LATIN AMERICAN REFUGEES
WITH WHOM IT HAS GREAT IDEOLOGICAL AFFINITY IT DIFFICULT TO
IMAGINE THAT PORTUGAL WOULD ACCEPT VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.
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